



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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 Inventors: **Allen S. Laughon**  
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 Title: **Compositions and Methods for Negative Regulation of TGF- $\beta$  Pathways**

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Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the first paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 1, as follows:

Genetic and biochemical studies indicate that TGF- $\beta$  and its related factors, including activin, bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), and their *Drosophila* counterpart, decapentaplegic, each signal to their target cells by a unique signaling cascade activated by ligand-induced serine/threonine kinase receptor